DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 184 332 FL 011 123

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TITLE The Noun Phrase in Tagalog-English Code Switching. Studies in Philippine Linguistics, Vol. 1, No. 1.
PUB DATE 77
NOTE 17p.
AVAILABLE FROM Photoduplication Services, Rizal Library, P.O. Box 154, Manila, Philippines
JOURNAL CIT Studies in Philippine Linguistics: v1 n1 p2-16 Spr 1977

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Bilingualism; *Code Switching (Language); *English (Second Language); Language Research; Language Usage; Native Speakers; *Nouns; Radio; *Second Language Learning; Speech Communication; Surface Structure; Syntax; *Tagalog; Tape Recordings

ABSTRACT

The structure of the Noun Phrase (NP) is analyzed in a corpus featuring Tagalog-English code-switching. Instances of first language (L1) NP's appearing as subjects and complements in second language (L2) sentential units are examined to gain insight into code-switching. Ten thirty-minute tapes of a radio program in Tagalog provided the corpus for the study. Every sentence containing an example of code switching was analyzed, primarily in terms of its surface structure, into its constituent elements. The analysis revealed the following: (1) Whenever there is congruence between Tagalog and English constructions, code switching is probable. (2) Although the basic rewriting rule for Tagalog NP's and English NP's is the same, the similarity is deceptive. Whereas Tagalog determiners are at the same time relation-markers, English determiners are not. (3) Probably, there are certain L2 prefabricated surface structure constitutents inserted into L1 sentences. These observations should be incorporated into the psycholinguistic model of bilingual competence. (PMJ)

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THE NOUN PHRASE IN TAGALOG-ENGLISH CODE SWITCHING

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0. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the structure of the noun phrase in a corpus featuring Tagalog-English code switching, that is, it will look at instances of Language 1 NPs appearing as subjects and complements in Language 2 sentential units.

The corpus has been derived from ten thirty-minute tapes of Pulong-Pulong sa Kaunlaran, a radio program produced by the National Media Production Center.

To obtain the code switches in the corpus, the following procedure was employed: Every sentence containing a single code switch or more was isolated and rewritten on a 5" x 8" card. Each entry was then analyzed--primarily in terms of surface structure--into its constituent elements.

This paper is limited to a discussion of code switches involving noun phrases and of insights into code switching that the analysis of such noun phrases provides. (For a complete typology of Tagalog-English code switches and implications for a model of bilingual linguistic competence, see Bautista 1974, 1975.)

1. Tagalog NPs in English Ss

Consider first the case of Tagalog NPs appearing as subjects in English Ss:

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1.1 Ito pong mga areas na ito ang intensyon talaga is to maintain it in the original state.

1.2 Dito po sa atin...ang intensyon po talaga ng tinatawag na national parks is to set aside an original area na tinatawag po nating may magandang tanawin--

1.3 Na iyong mga halaman at mga plants and animals na nandoon po sa lugal na iyon pabayaan lang at magkaroon sila ng tinatawag na natural interaction at parang ang tao will find a way to be able to enjoy and recreate in these areas.

1.4 Ang family planning component po dito is really the most crucial at the moment--

1.5 Ang medium of instruction natin has been English for a long time and we could not use any other language as a medium for the test also.

1.6 Sa amin pong estimate dahil nabilang ho namin actually iyong mga young ones na tinatawag, iyong mga yearlings have an increase of about eight per cent within the reservation--

1.7 As a matter of fact po, ang goal natin by nineteen seventy-six is two point five million.

1.8 At sa singkwenta'y kwatrong national parks ho, ang total appropriation both from the committee and from the Bureau of Forest Development would amount to about thirteen million only.

1.9 Ngayon dito po sa section seventeen, maliwanag po rito na iyong mixed--male and female--boarders in dormitories and boardinghouses are prohibited.

Notice that in 1.8 and 1.9 the supposed Tagalog NP-subject is made up of more English words than Tagalog words; in 1.8, only ang is Tagalog and in 1.9, only iyong. It may even be suggested that in these two sentences, ang and iyong are Tagalog lexical insertions into English Ss.

But on the basis of a thorough investigation of the data in the complete corpus, which has not revealed the insertion of items

like ang and iyon among function words inserted into English Ss, it seems more probable that here it is the nouns and prepositional phrases that have been inserted.

1.10 Ang stand po kasi noong Church noon, bago noong talagang lumaki iyong population ng buong mundo ano? was that really ang procre-...ang marriage act, iyong sexual act in marriage was basically number one for procreation and education of children ano?

Perhaps 1.10 provides the best example of the shift that occurs from Tagalog to English between the subject and the predicate. Here both the NP to the topmost S and the NP of the noun clause are Tagalog and the verb and linker of the topmost S and the entire verb phrase of the noun clause are English.

1.11 Sa income po hindi po natin masasabing ang direct income na kinikita ng Rizal Park dahil sa ang Rizal Park ho is not a commercial establishment, hindi po establishment pangnegosyo.

It is obvious from the above examples that the structure of the Tagalog NPs is exactly like that of English NPs: NP is rewritten as Det (+Adj) + N (+ S). Therefore the switch effecting a Tagalog subject and an English predicate is possible because of the congruence between Tagalog subjects and English subjects. That is, from the Tagalog subject, it is perhaps as easy to continue with a Tagalog ay-construction as with an English VP.

The congruence between English NPs and Tagalog NPs in subject position may also explain the deleted Tagalog subject in the following sentences from the corpus:

1.12 Well, we all know that this is a State University at lumalakad sa pamamagitan ng pondong nanggagaling sa ating pamahalaan.

where the English subject this and the Tagalog deleted subject ito are equivalent.

1.13 At they live side by side with...sa mga tao at nabibisita at pini-preserve po ng kanilang mga pamahalaan.

where they = the omitted sila.

1.14 Kaya sa...noong bago magkaroon ng Martial Law, I think everybody, almost everybody, would go out with his shotgun or rifle at maski saan lugar ay namamaril.

where the omitted Tagalog subject sila can be inferred from its English equivalent they.

Here are instances of Tagalog NPs appearing as complements in English Ss:

1.15 At kagaya po ng ating napasimulang paksa, we'll still discuss ito pong mga details na may kaugnayan sa National College Entrance Examination--

1.16 Kung hindi po ninyo...we have discussed during the first session ito pong subject areas na inyo pong pipiliin.

1.17 Ano po...kung magkakaroon po kayo ng comparison, how would you compare the initial reaction of the people to this at saka iyon pong pagtanggap nila ngayon sa kapanahunang ito?

1.18 Kaya't, mga kaibigan, antabayanan po ang ating mga tatalakayin sapagka't this concerns those who are in the Civil Service at iyon pong hindi pa nakasasali at covered ng Civil Service--

1.19 They are given iyong tinatawag na academic appointments.

1.20 --sapagka't they won't worry about anymore itong sinasabi nilang decrease in enrollment sapagka't magkakaroon na rin sila ng special course offerings--

1.21 At kung mayroon pong maidadagdag na kwan na improvement doon it would be iyong mga tinatawag po nating visitor amenities.

1.22 What I wanted to ask really was iyong tungkol sa mga questions kung...kasi baka masyadong mahirap iyong mga questions.

In the first set of examples given earlier, examples 1.1 to 1.11, the ang/iyon determiner is expected because the NPs are subject NPs. In the second set of examples, the iyon-determiner in 1.21 and 1.22 is again expected because the NPs here are predicate nouns. Even if they were given Tagalog glosses, the NPs would still be iyon-NPs in equational sentences:

1.21' At kung mayroon pong maidadagdag na kwan na improvement doon iyon po iyong mga tinatawag po nating visitor amenities.

1.22' Ang gusto ko hong itanong talaga iyong tungkol sa mga questions--

But notice that the NPs in 1.15 to 1.20 are objects--in 1.15 to 1.19, the Tagalog NPs are objects of the verb and in 1.20, it is an object of the preposition--and yet the determiner is ito/iyon, the determiner for subject-NPs, rather than nito/noon, the determiner for Tagalog objects of the verb, or dito/doon, the determiner for Tagalog objects of the preposition.

A very noticeable characteristic of the NPs in the corpus then is the primacy of the ang/ito/iyan/iyon form of the determiner, the NP-subject determiner.

In the case of 1.20, the ito-form seems to have primacy (judging from its appearance in the corpus), but dito can still be used:

1.20' --sapagka't they won't worry about anymore dito sa sinasabi nilang decrease in enrollment--

However, nito cannot be used in 1.15 to 1.18; for example:

1.15' *At kagaya po ng ating napasimulang paksa, we'll still discuss nito pong mga details na may kaugnayan sa National College Entrance Examination--

1.18' *Kaya't mga kaibigan, antabayanan po ang ating mga tatalakayin sapagka't this concerns those who are in the Civil Service at noon pong hindi pa nakasasali at covered ng Civil Service--

What makes dito acceptable and prevents nito from being acceptable?

It is clear that some congruence exists between English prepositional phrases and Tagalog prepositional phrases: Consider equivalences like simply because of family planning = dahil lamang sa family planning, regarding this matter = tungkol sa bagay na ito, during the time of registration = habang panahon ng pagrerehistro, etc. Perhaps the intertranslatability between about this and tungkol dito makes it possible to insert dito after about in 1.20'.

But there is no congruence between English NPs and Tagalog ng-NPs, as the following examples demonstrate:

1.23 She sewed a dress.

1.23' Nanahi siya ng isang damit.

The Tagalog NP has the determiner ng in addition to isang to indicate indefiniteness, and the ng marks the relation between the verb nanahi, the subject-NP siya, and the complement-NP damit. The English NP has the a only to indicate indefiniteness. Consider the plural form:

1.24 She sews dresses.

1.24' Nananahi siya ng mga damit.

Dresses = mga damit, but note that Tagalog requires the determiner ng as a relation-marker.

From the foregoing discussion, perhaps it can then be said that the norms for English dictate the unacceptability of a ng-marked NP as complement in an English S. A Tagalog NP-complement inserted into an English S cannot bear the determiner nito because that will incorporate the relation-marking of ng, a signalling feature not found in English grammar.

But the above statement needs to be qualified. Although the opinion is divided over the next example, some are agreed that it is possible to say:

1.19' They are given noong tinatawag na academic appointments.

There must be a difference in structure between 1.19, which allows the use of a ng-marked complement, and 1.15 to 1.18, which do not allow it. The difference seems to be that 1.15 to 1.18 are in the active voice while 1.19 is in the passive voice. That is, the constraints against using the ng-determiner for the Tagalog complement in an English S may be stronger when the English S is in the active voice than when it is in the passive voice. Why this should be the case is not yet clear to the writer.

Except for this borderline instance, the difference between English NPs and Tagalog ng-NPs is evident.

All the Tagalog NP-complements above have been introduced by the demonstrative determiners ito and iyon, determiners that normally mark NP-subjects.

The next group of complements have the determiners ng and sa. Before going into the examples for this group, it will be necessary to discuss the case categories of Tagalog adopted in this study.

In terms of the whole system of Tagalog grammar, it seems convenient to consider ng and sa as determiners (Schachter and Otanes 1972)--although in most instances they appear analogous to English prepositions. That ng and sa, like ang, are determiners is seen in the correspondence among the following sentences:

1.25 Bumili ang bata ng kendi sa tindahan.

1.25' Binili ng bata ang kendi sa tindahan.

1.25" Binilhan ng bata ng kendi ang tindahan.

Following Gonzalez (1972), the ang-NP can be called the subject-NP and the sa-NP can be called the oblique-NP. Within his framework, Gonzalez refers to the ng-NP as -subject, -oblique; for this paper, the ng-NP will not be given a label since there is no available term that can include the two main uses of ng. One use of ng is as a marker for an object-NP, as in Bumili ang bata ng kendi, and the other use is as a marker for a genitive-NP, as in ang kendi ng bata. In default of a comprehensive term, reference will simply be made to the ng-NP-object and the ng-NP-genitive.

As has already been pointed out, ng-NPs and sa-NPs sometimes appear like English PPs. (In fact, there is a possibility that in some other Tagalog grammar, ng and sa may even be considered as prepositions.) Thus, there is a major difference between the first group of complements (discussed as 1.15 to 1.22) and the second group of complements: The complements in the first group are glossed as English NPs but the complements in the second group are glossed as English PPs. This seems to correspond to the bifurcation of ng-NPs: Bumili ang bata ng kendi is glossed as The child bought candy where the Tagalog NP ng kendi is glossed as an English NP candy while ang kendi ng bata is glossed as the candy of the child where the Tagalog NP ng bata is glossed as an English PP of the child.

Now consider the following sentences:

1.26 This is in connection with the celebration po ng anibersaryo ng D.A.R. o tinatawag po nating Department of Agrarian Reform--

Here the NP ng anibersaryo ng D.A.R.-- is a genitive and is naturally glossed as of the anniversary of the D.A.R.--.

1.27 --palagay ko ay we would put in more interest sa ating pagtatanghal kung ang pag-uusapan natin ay--

The oblique-NP sa ating pagtatanghal brings to mind the English PP, in our presentation.

1.28 --at ito po ay ukol sa tinatawag po nating pagse-celebrate ng D.A.R. o ng Department of Agrarian Reform at...which happens to fall sa araw pong ito ng kanilang anibersaryo.

The oblique-NP sa araw pong ito ng kanilang anibersaryo is easily translated into the English PP on this day of their anniversary.

1.29 At they live side by side with...sa mga tao at nabibisita at pini-preserve po ng kanilang mga pamahalaan.

Notice that the speaker had already uttered the English preposition with before he shifted to the Tagalog oblique-NP sa mga tao. (The opposite of this happened in the following instance, when the speaker, having already uttered the Tagalog determiner ng, then shifted to the English preposition of:

1.30 --mayroon po kaming nabilang by estimate sa loob ng reservation ng...of Mindoro, three reservations ho iyan, nasa isang daan.)

Another example of the equivalence between Tagalog sa-NPs and English PPs is:

1.31 Wildlife ho is very sensitive doon sa pamamaril.

where, if the whole sentence had been give in English, it would have been:

1.31' Wildlife is very sensitive to shooting.

Although the analysis given here considers the Tagalog phrases as NPs and the English phrases as PPs, the difference between the Tagalog and English structures may well be an artifact of the grammatical description of Tagalog adopted for this study. Anyway, it is clear that the Filipino bilingual seems aware that there is something basically similar between Tagalog ng- and sa- NPs and English PPs and this may account in part for the ease with which he switches between these two construction types at some point in the sentence.

2. English NPs in Tagalog Ss

Although there are numerous instances of the use of English nouns in Tagalog Ss, there are only six cases of complete English NPs appearing in Tagalog Ss. Consider first the three instances in the corpus of an English NP appearing as subject in a Tagalog S:

2.1 Kaya't hindi natin pwede pong i-discuss, ano ho, the merits and demerits of the case.

Here the merits and demerits of the case is the subject of the sentence. English does not distinguish between nominative and objective case in the determiners, but if it is assumed that this sentence is a Tagalog sentence, then this underscored string is indeed the subject. The affix of the verb--i--and the form of the pronoun--natin--indicate that natin is not the subject although it is the agent of the action; glossing the the in the merits and demerits of the case in the context of the whole S yields ang.

2.2 E kami po e...we are coordinating, I mean, the D.L.G.C.D. at saka ang D.A.R. ay nagka-coordinate nang madalas tungkol dito sa...sa pagbubuklod ng samahang-nayon.

Leaving E kami po e...we are coordinating as another S and I mean as a collocation, the D.L.G.C.D. and ang D.A.R. are conjoined NPs serving as 'subject of' the S.

2.3 Ito po bang sinasabi nyong hindi pwede e...sa...kung paguusapan po ito pong the whole building itself kahit na po anong laki ng building na ito, Mr. Ramos?

How should the whole building itself be considered? Since ito (in ito pong the whole building itself) functions as a determiner, the the here seems superfluous.

But the 'superfluous English determiner' may be accounted for in the following manner: Perhaps the whole building itself has been considered as one 'prefabricated' N and therefore this needs a determiner, ito. This analysis seems to be supported by the three examples of English NPs appearing as complements in Tagalog Ss:

2.4 Direktor, going to the very nature and extent of family planning, ano po, maaari po bang bigyan nyo kami ng a little background on this para naman po masasabi natin na kung talagang ito ay isang bagong bagay--

Here, bigay is a double-object verb with nyo and ng a little background on this as its NP-complements; the second complement has the constituent structure Det (= ng) + Adj (= a little) + N (= background) + PP (= on this).

There is one other example featuring the same English Adj + N, a little background, but in this case it is conjoined to a Tagalog Adj + N + PP, ilang bagay ukol sa departamentong ito ng ating pamahalaan:

2.5 At kapiling nga po nating si G. Jose Medina, Jr., na maaring magbigay sa atin ng ilang bagay ukol sa departamentong ito ng ating pamahalaan o a little background para naman po wika nga ay mabigyan ng munting kaalaman ang ating mga kababayan--

Both sentences were uttered by the same speaker in different broadcasts; it seems that for this particular speaker, a little background is a prefabricated structure that is easily inserted into Tagalog Ss.

2.6 Ang kinalabsan po nito, ng...the special commission ay in nineteen seventy nagtatag ng special government action commission no?--

The pause, as indicated by ..., suggests a break in thought. Does the break in thought account for the presence of the *the* in *the special commission*? The English determiner seems uperfluous here because the Tagalog determiner *ng* is already present and the more likely construction seems to be *ng special commission*.

But an attractive possibility again is that maybe the language user stores ready-made NPs already constituted and inserts them en bloc.

3. Conclusion

The analysis and discussion given above of the NP has highlighted the following facts about Tagalog-English code switching.

3.1 Whenever there is congruence between Tagalog and English constructions, as is the case with English NPs and Tagalog *ang/ito/iyan/iyon* NPs, with English PPs and Tagalog *ng*-NP-genitives or Tagalog *sa*-NPs, code switching is probable.

3.2 The basic rewriting rule for Tagalog NPs and English NPs, NP → Det + N, is the same but the identicalness is deceptive. Tagalog determiners are at the same time relation-markers, English determiners are not. The example given earlier proves this:

3.21 At kagaya po ng ating napasimulang paksa, we'll still discuss *ito* pong mga details na may kaugnayan sa National College Entrance Examination--

3.21' *--we'll still discuss nito pong mga details na may kaugnayan sa National College Entrance Examination--

Nito is not acceptable here because the norms for English do not allow for the relation-marking implicit in the Tagalog determiner nito.

This difference stemming from the presence of relation-marking in the Tagalog determiner ng is also reflected in what happens to an English NP-complement inserted into a Tagalog S:

3.22 Direktor, going to the very nature and extent of family planning, ano po, maaari po bang bigyan nyo kami ng a little background on this--

3.22' *--maaari po bang bigyan nyo kami a little background on this--

The unacceptability of 3.22' shows that the English NP has to be introduced by the Tagalog determiner ng because the structure of Tagalog requires ng as a relation marker.

This points out a constraint in code switching: The norms of the base-language for the sentence serving as the matrix of the code switch dictate the form of the code-switched construction.

3.3 It is likely that there are certain Language 2 ready-made, prefabricated surface structure constituents inserted en bloc into Language 1 sentences. It is as if the Filipino bilingual had--to use the felicitous phrase employed by Maclay and Osgood (1967:321) in another context but just as apropos here--'a "pool" of heavily practised, tightly integrated English word and phrase units' into which he dips from time to time and which he incorporates into his Tagalog sentences.

These observations should then be incorporated into the psycholinguistic model of bilingual competence.

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